

Application Number 10/731,881
Amendment Under Section 1.312 Filed January 15, 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An implantable medical device comprising:

a plurality of interconnected modules, each of the modules comprising a respective housing to house each respective module;

an overmold comprising a first, substantially flexible, ~~elastomeric~~ component[[.]] that at least partially encapsulates each of the housings, and second and third ~~nonelastomeric~~ components that are located adjacent to at least one side surface of a respective one of the housings, wherein the first component comprises an elastomeric material and the second and third components comprise a non-elastomeric material; and

a motion reduction element within the overmold to reduce relative motion between at least two of the modules,

wherein the motion reduction element couples the second and third components of the overmold.

Claim 2 (Original): The implantable medical device of claim 1, wherein the motion reduction element is located between two of the modules.

Claim 3 (Cancelled).

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The implantable medical device of 1, wherein at least one of the second and third components comprises the motion reduction element.

Claim 5 (Cancelled).

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Claim 6 (Currently Amended): An implantable medical device comprising:
a plurality of interconnected modules, each of the modules comprising a respective housing to house each respective module;
an overmold that at least partially encapsulates each of the housings; and
a motion reduction element within the overmold to reduce relative motion between at least two of the modules,
wherein the overmold comprises a first substantially flexible component[[,]] that at least partially encapsulates each of the housings, and second and third components that are located adjacent to side surfaces of respective ones of the housings, and
wherein the motion reduction element comprises the second and third components of the overmold and comprises a first motion reduction element that protrudes from the second component of the overmold, the implantable medical device further comprising a second motion reduction element that protrudes from the third component of the overmold, wherein first and second motion reduction elements interact to reduce relative motion between the modules associated with the second and third components.

Claim 7 (Original): The implantable medical device of claim 1, wherein the motion reduction element comprises a wire-like element.

Claim 8 (Original): The implantable medical device of claim 1, wherein the motion reduction element comprises a fabric.

Claim 9 (Original): The implantable medical device of claim 1, wherein the motion reduction element comprises at least one of a cement, a polymer, and a shape memory alloy.

Claim 10 (Original): The implantable medical device of claim 1, wherein the motion reduction element comprises a fiber.

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Claim 11 (Original): The implantable medical device of claim 1, wherein the motion reduction element comprises at least two rigid members coupled together with a mechanical moving element.

Claim 12 (Original): The implantable medical device of claim 11, wherein the mechanical moving element is a ball and socket element.

Claim 13 (Original): The implantable medical device of claim 11, wherein the mechanical moving element is a rod and slot element.

Claim 14 (Original): The implantable medical device of claim 11, wherein the mechanical moving element is a geared hinge element.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): An implantable medical device comprising:
a plurality of interconnected modules, each of the modules comprising a housing;
an overmold that at least partially encapsulates each of the housings; and
a motion reduction element within the overmold to reduce relative motion between at least two of the modules,
wherein the motion reduction element comprises at least two rigid members coupled together with a mechanical moving element, and
wherein the mechanical moving element includes a locking element to permit the at least two rigid members to be positioned into a desired location and to permit the locking element to retain the mechanical moving elements in the desired position.

Claim 16 (Original): The implantable medical device of claim 15, wherein the locking element is an insertable pin element.

Claim 17 (Original): The implantable medical device of claim 15, wherein the locking element is an adhesive element.

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Claim 18 (Original): The implantable medical device of claim 1, wherein the implantable medical device comprises an implantable neurostimulator.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): An implantable medical device comprising:

a plurality of interconnected modules, each of the modules comprising a respective housing to house each respective module;

an overmold comprising a first substantially flexible, ~~elastomeric~~ component[[,]] that at least partially encapsulates each of the housings, and second and third ~~non-elastomeric~~ components that are located adjacent to at least one side surface of a respective one of the housings, wherein the first component comprises an elastomeric material and the second and third components comprise a non-elastomeric material; and

means within the overmold for reducing relative motion between at least two of the modules,

wherein the means within the overmold for reducing relative motion between at least two of the modules couples the second and third components of the overmold.

Claim 20 (Original): The implantable medical device of claim 19, wherein the means for reducing relative motion is located within the overmold between two of the modules.

Claim 21 (Cancelled).

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The implantable medical device of 19, wherein at least one of the second and third components comprises the means for reducing relative motion between modules.

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Claim 23 (Previously Presented): An implantable medical device comprising:
a plurality of interconnected modules, each of the modules comprising a housing;
an overmold that at least partially encapsulates each of the housings; and
means within the overmold for reducing relative motion between at least two of the modules, wherein the means for reducing relative motion comprises:
means for permitting motion between at least two of the modules to a configuration; and
means for locking the modules in the configuration.

Claim 24 (Original): The implantable medical device of claim 19, wherein the implantable medical device comprises an implantable neurostimulator.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): An implantable medical device comprising:
a plurality of interconnected modules, each of the modules comprising a respective housing to house each respective module;
an overmold that at least partially encapsulates each of the housings;
a coupling module to couple at least two of the modules, wherein the coupling module is flexible to allow at least one degree of relative motion between the modules, the at least one degree of relative motion comprising rotational motion; and
a motion reduction element within the overmold to reduce relative motion between the at least two of the modules in the at least one degree.

Claims 26 and 27 (Cancelled).

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Claim 28 (Previously Presented): An implantable medical device comprising:
a plurality of interconnected modules, each of the modules comprising a respective housing to house each respective module;
an overmold that at least partially encapsulates each of the housings, the overmold comprising a first component comprising an elastomeric material, and second and third components comprising nonelastomeric material; and
a motion reduction element within the overmold to reduce relative motion between at least two of the modules, wherein the motion reduction element couples the second and third components of the overmold.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The implantable medical device of claim 25, wherein the coupling module is hermetic.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The implantable medical device of claim 1, wherein the housing of at least one of the modules is hermetic.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The implantable medical device of claim 1, wherein a respective housing of at least one of the modules comprises a rigid material.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The implantable medical device of claim 31, wherein the rigid material comprises at least one of titanium, stainless steel or ceramic.